

City of Big Spring  
Charter Committee Meeting  
Minutes 01/13/2021

Meeting called to order by John Scott, committee chair.

Committee members present in person were John Scott, Nati Saldivar, Roger Rodman, Troy Tompkins, Pat Chesworth. Committee members attending virtually were A.J. Weaver and Elias Gamboa. Others in attendance were Mayor Shannon Thomason, Andrew Hagen, Todd Darden, Charles Zech.

**Public Comment Period** – there were none present requesting to make comments.

**Old Business** – Second reading of adoption of Big Spring City Council rules and procedures for conduct of committee meetings introduced John Scott. Adopted unanimously.

**New Business**

**City Manager and staff input** – delayed due to technology issues

**Discussion of Charter Law** – John Scott recognized Charles Zech, who indicated he would address any issues as they arise through the course of this meeting.

**Discussion and Possible Action with Regards to Recommending Amendments to the City Charter** –

John Scott reminded committee members they have a copy of Charles Zech’s suggested mark ups of the current charter as to duplicative items and/or unnecessary items pursuant to Texas state law. Mr. Zech further stated that said items were not substantive in nature. Motion by Troy Tompkins to strike from charter, items that are duplicate or unnecessary in accordance with state law. Second by Nati Saldivar. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Committee requested from Mr. Zech, a clean revised charter draft with the aforementioned mark-up items removed. Mr. Zech agreed to the request.

Motion by A. J. Weaver to change language in charter Article 8 Sect 4 to strike “qualified property tax payers” and insert “qualified voters.” Seconded by Pat Chesworth. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Some discussion followed regarding various provisions in the charter. No action was taken nor were any motions offered.

A discussion arose regarding a possible change to the monthly stipend paid to councilpersons and to the mayor by the city. Mr. Tompkins asked for input from Mayor Thomason; it was the mayor’s recommendation that any such provision be submitted directly to the voters with no consideration or modification by the council. This strategy avoids the appearance of a conflict of interest by the council.

**City Manager and staff input** – Todd Darden indicated he would like to provide input on charter improvements specific to city manager functions. This input would be reviewed by Mr. Hagen and Mr. Zech, and then be presented to the charter committee for consideration for inclusion in the committee’s final product. Mr. Darden expressed deference to the committee, to council, and ultimately to the voters.

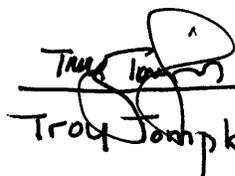
Mr. Hagen informed the committee there are some discrepancies between the original charter and subsequent amendments in which non-substantive edits were made. The changes were primarily spelling, punctuation, or missing word errors. Mr. Hagen would like to correct those amendments and present said corrections to the committee. No committee member objected.

**Committee Input**

No suggested future action items were offered by members

Mayor Thomason advised the committee there is a Charter Committee social media (Facebook) page which will be linked via the City web site. The city also has set up a dedicated email address to receive public input; it will be posted on the city website as well as social media. That email address is charter@mybigspring.com.

**Meeting adjourned by the chair.**

 04/07/2021  
Troy Tompkins, Committee Secretary